

P3, Bill

From: Judy Bishop [mailto:JBishop@bishopco.net]
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Subject: City Council Public Hearing Testimony

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Regarding Bill 11- commercial activities in Kailua Beach Park-

I sincerely hope to attend the hearing on Wednesday, however, since I own a small business operating in downtown Honolulu, I may not be able to get away from work and wanted to ensure that my testimony be read by the City Council Members, as follows:

I have been a resident and home owner in Kailua for almost 12 years, and over the last 3 years the overcrowding situation has become unbearable. It is so bad that many, many of my neighbors are talking about moving out of Kailua completely. This is very sad to see a wonderful community being torn apart for tourism and \$\$\$, to the severe detriment of the residents, senior citizens, and children who use the beach park, and, of course, the Kailua town area.

A large majority of people who live in Kailua live there by choice, mainly because they LOVE being in a beach community- otherwise we would live elsewhere like Manoa or Aiea heights or Pearl City, etc. Kailua people USE the beach, we USE the ocean, we USE the park!

There are about 7 elementary schools and several high schools, many church groups, athletic groups and clubs, including several paddling clubs, which all USE the beach and beach park. We cannot all be expected to drive to Ala Moana beach park or Kapiolani or Waikiki beach parks for our activities- should school and church groups have to drive to town to be able to use the beach so that tourists can be bused to Kailua beach park? Should Kailua paddle clubs have to practice in Waikiki because it is less crowded there than it is in Kailua?

Thousands of new residents are coming to Kailua with the Marine build up- new condos are being built as we speak; Target is opening in the near future--- all signaling HUGE growth for an over burdened infrastructure and community.

What is happening to the rights of private citizens that commercial interests override the rights of the residents whose property taxes fund the care of the parks?

Why wouldn't all the city council members not respect the wishes of the 1000's of residents who have given written and in person testimony IN FAVOR of Bill 11?

Why not respect the testimony of our Senators and Representatives who know the situation first hand and have spoken in FAVOR of the Bill? Why not vote YES for Bill 11?

Why does every park on this island have to have commercial activities? Why can't residents have their families enjoy our windward beach? Why isn't commercial activity reserved for Waikiki and other areas so designated in the City & County urban planning? Why isn't the residential zoning being honored?

Why aren't the current prohibitions being enforced? Why is there no respect for the laws enacted by and for the residents of our community? Why do the police act as if there is no problem??

Have you driven down the ONLY road that accesses Kailua Beach Park on a sunny weekend? Do you know that there is ONLY ONE WAY into that park????????? Think of Waikiki with only one way in and the same only one way out--- that is what we have faced every day for years with no let up and only increasing volume and chaos.

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We have all been patient and helpful to tourists who cannot swim, cannot windsurf, cannot kayak etc., by saving them over and over while the business owners and operators do nothing. It has to stop.

Please do not destroy our community and our lives , the lives of our kids who cannot ride their bikes for fear of being run down by a bus; the lives of our families and infants who are at risk from the unsavory characters being brought into our community through the proliferation of strangers who walk our back streets on the pretext of looking for parking while checking out what house they can rob next, before they urinate in our yards.

Crime is increasing, traffic is out of control and it **THREATENS THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE** who lives near the park- residents who live **PAST** the park are literally **TRAPPED** in their homes during busy weekends because the overall total **VOLUME** of beachgoers and the accompanying traffic stalls cars for hours and hours. If there was a real emergency like a fire or a heart attack, **NO ONE COULD GET OUT** of the neighborhood to get to the hospital. God help us all if there is ever a tsunami or storm or fire on a sunny weekend- there will be **THOUSANDS OF LIVES LOST**.

I do not believe that members of the City Council understand the degree of the problem we are, and have been, experiencing for **YEARS**- we are not just not getting annoyed and getting fussy – we have spent years trying to solve the problem nicely by appealing to human nature and assuming people mean well, but, alas, that has not worked, and it is out of control and people's rights are being violated and you have no idea how bad it is.

Please , please help us save our community and do not let a few commercial interests, who have violated all trust, override your desire to care for the communities which you serve. Please trust the elected officials who speak for us and who **OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT BILL 11**. If you pass Bill 11, tourists can still come and "discover an authentic Hawaii beach and community", they can still spend \$\$ in Kailua, but they just don't need to be bused in!!! they don't need to have vendors set up on the beaches! They can still come in reasonable numbers and they and the community can happily co-exist.

Thank you so much,

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